Uppu with reliable medium by March, 2003, subject to availability of resources.

Software Programme for Visually Handicapped

3825. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any software programme has been developed for the visually impaired handicapped persons in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the centres where such programmes are being run for the blind; and

(d) the proposed additional centres to be opened during the next five years in different parts of the country to bring hope for the blind?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Under a Jai Vigyan National S&T Mission project being executed by Webel Mediatronics Ltd., Kolkata and IIT, Kharagpur, the Department of Information Technology is getting certain hardware and software developed for the benefit of the visually handicapped in the country.

(b) The following software programmes have been developed for Braille literacy in major Indian languages:

(i) Test to Braille transcription and its printing on an indigenously developed computerized Braille embosser.

(ii) Braille to Text conversion using customized keyboard.

(c) As part of this project, thirty blind schools in different parts of the country have been identified where the systems are being installed. The list of these comprising 5 Resource Centres and 25 Training Centres is given in the statement. (*See* below)

(d) Depending upon the feedback received from the centres already identified as per (c) above, the Government may plan additional centres.

Statement

List of Blind Schools Earmarked for RCs & TCs under the DIT funded project

Resource Centres	Training Centres
1. Calcutta Blind School, Behala, Kilkata, Dist. 24-Paraganas-700034	1. Govt Ideal Blind School, Takyal, Social Welfare Complex, P.O. Imphal Manipur 2. Institute for the Visually Handicapped (Boys), Village Narsingarh, P.O. Bimangarh, West Tripura-799015, 3. Vivekananda Mission Asram Residential School for the Blind (Govt. Sponsored) Viveknagar, P.O. Chaitanyapur (Haldia), Dist. Madnapur, Midnapur—721645 West Bengal 4. Jorhat Blind Institution, NA-ALI, Jorhat, Dist.—Jorhat, Assam 5. School for the Blind, Bhim Bhoi Unit III Malgodown Road 6. Satyanagar Bhubaneshwar-751007.
2. National Institute of Visually, Handicapped, 230 Rajpur Road, Dehradun-248009	1. Blind Relief Association, Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg, New Delhi-110003 2. Government Institute for Blind Girls Jamalpur Near Power House On Ludhaina Chandigarh Road, Ludhiana 3. Govt. School for the Blind, Mohan Road, Arya Nagar Settlement Lucknow-226004 4. Bihar Blind Peoples' Care Society, 339, MIG Kankarbagh Colony, Patna-800020. 5. Training Centre for Adult Blind, Govt. of Haryana, Atlas Road, Haryana.
3. The National Association for the Blind, India 11-12, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan Road, Worli Sea face Mumbai-25	1. Taramati Bafna Blind Welfare Research Centre, P.B. No. 9, Plot A-7/A-1, MIDC Industrial Area, Chikaltahna, Aurangabad, Maharashtra 2. L.K.C. Jagadamba Andh Vidyalaya, 82, L.Block Hanumangadh Rd, Sh. Ganganagar-335001 3. Secondary School for the Blind, Dr. Vikram Sarabhai Rd, Ahmedabad 4. Smt. M.K. Mehta School for the Blind, C/O. Mamta Mandir, Tale Baug, Dist. Banaskantha Palanpur-385001, 5. The Mahewhwari School for the blind, Nehru Nagar, Belgaum, Karnataka.

Resource Centres	Training Centres
4. Govt. Higher Secondary Girls High School for the Blind, Block 'C' 137-140, Malakpet Colony, Behind Nehru Memorial School, Hyderabad-500036	1. Shri Rama Krishna Mission Vidayala College of Education, Coimbatore. 2. St. Louis Instt. for the Deaf & Blind, Canal Bank Road, Adayar, Chennai. 3. Govt. School for the Blind, Gandhi Nagar, Vazhuthachud, Thiruvananthapuram 4. Shree Ramana Maharishi Academy for the Blind, No. C.A. 1-B 3rd Cross, 3rd Phase, J.P. Nagar, Bangalore-560078, Karnataka 5. Visakha Model School for the blind Near Law College, Madhurawada, Visakhapattanam-530019(A.P.)
5. Govt. Deaf & Dumb Blind School. Kesar Bunglow, Parsi Bazar, Bhopal, MP	1. St. Michael's School for the Blind, Old Hazaribagh Road, P.O. Church Road, P.O. Box No. 1, Ranchi-834001 2. Jeevan Jyoti School for the Blind, Aktha, Samath, Varanasi, U.P 3. M.P. Welfare Association for the blind, 33, B/D Kila Maidan, Indore. 4. Govt. H.S. School for blind, P.O. & Village Tewar, Bheda ghat Road, Jabalpur. 5. Blind Boys Institute, South Amabzani Road, Nagpur, Maharashtra.

Constitution of TACs

3826. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to re-constitute District/ State level Telephone Advisory Committees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, the Government proposes to reorganize the Telephone Advisory Committees (TACs). Accordingly, Hon'ble Members of Parliament have been requested to recommend name of five eminent persons of his/her constituency for consideration for nomination in reorganized TACs. However, no final decision regarding composition, functions and other aspects of the reorganized Telephone Advisory Committee (TAC) has been taken.